



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

DRAFT Minutes of the Miracle Mile Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF) Site Community Advisory Board (CAB) Meeting - 20th meeting

February 13, 2003, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Flowing Wells Irrigation District
3901 N. Fairview
Tucson, Arizona 85705

E-II-5240.18.6.1.2

CAB Members Present: Gary Abrams, Netty Buras, David Crockett, George Hembree, Pauline Massie, Jan Randolph

CAB Members Absent: Drew Foster, Manuel Ramirez

ADEQ Staff Present: Matt Doolen, Project Manager; SRO; Mike Fulton, Superfund Programs Unit Supervisor, Southern Regional Office; Eileen Palese, Community Involvement Coordinator, SRO

Members of the Public Present: Ralph Darling, Frances Feld

The meeting began at 6:40 p.m.

1. Call to Order/Introductions

Co-chair Gary Abrams conducted introductions of CAB members and public participants.

2. Approval of Minutes for 8/8/02 and 10/24/02 CAB Meetings

David Crockett motioned to approve the minutes from the 8/8/02 and the 10/24/02 CAB Meetings. Pauline Massie seconded the motion. All members voted in favor; none opposed.

3. Vote to Remove CAB Member: Drew Foster

Gary Abrams said that Drew Foster, who has not been attending meetings, was contacted by email and mail to inquire if he was interested in continuing as a member of the board, but he did not respond. His phone had been disconnected. David Crockett motioned to vote to remove Drew Foster from the Miracle Mile CAB. Netty Buras seconded the motion. The CAB voted unanimously to remove Drew Foster as a member.

4. Discussion and Nomination of CAB Co-Chairs

The CAB discussed nominations for co-chairs. The members asked Gary Abrams and David Crockett if they wished to be re-elected. They agreed to serve another year. Netty Buras made a motion to vote on their nomination; Jan Randolph seconded the motion. The CAB voted unanimously to nominate Gary Abrams and David Crockett as co-chairs. A vote will take place at the next CAB meeting.

5. Discussion: Remedy Selection Process/Land and Water Use Study

Mike Fulton, Superfund Programs Unit Supervisor, Southern Regional Office, addressed the CAB about the next steps in the remedy selection process as outlined in WQARF rules. A handout on the Remedy Selection Process was provided to each CAB member. He first reviewed the fiscal year '04 proposed budget, which is being debated by the state legislature, and outlined how reduced WQARF funding may affect the cleanup of the Miracle Mile WQARF site.

Dave Crockett asked how reduced funding will affect the purpose of the CAB. Mike Fulton said that it is possible that there will only be enough WQARF funding to monitor the existing wells, so even though the statute requires ADEQ community advisory boards to meet four times a year, there may not be agenda items needing action. He said it will be important for the CAB to meet when public discussions are required, such as when the Remedial Objectives have to be completed. Public comment is required before the remedy for the cleanup of the site is selected.

Pauline Massie asked if the wells that were planned this spring will be installed. Matt Doolen said that they would be with this year's funding.

Mike Fulton outlined what will be required for the Remedial Investigation (RI) Report and the Land and Water Use Study, which has to be completed before the remedy is selected. This study will identify what the current water use is and it will project what it will be in 100 years. ADEQ will consult with the CAB, the public, water providers and landowners of this report. He pointed out the number of steps and the required public comment periods and said the process will take more than one year. He said the RI will contain all of the historical data and a narrative on what is known about the contamination. He said ultimately a Feasibility Study is prepared, which is the framework to choose the cleanup technologies that would work best at the site and would meet the objectives of the public.

Netty Buras asked if the Remedial Investigation has ended. Mike Fulton said that the investigation will end at the end of this fiscal year (June 2003).

The CAB discussed new technologies that might affect the final remedy. Mike Fulton said that there will be a need to establish an effective remedy that will benefit the water provider. He said arsenic standards may be changed by the Environmental Protection Agency, which could add another constraint. He said that there is a drawback in selecting a remedy and then waiting to implement it due to budget constraints because technologies may change. He said

he hopes there will be enough resources to maintain monitoring and that there won't be a need to start over again.

CAB members asked additional questions about WQARF funding and possible sources of revenue. Mike Fulton said that with 33 WQARF sites in the state, there may only be enough funding to maintain existing cleanup systems; ADEQ may have to make hard choices between sites. He said a priority will continue to be situations that directly affect health and safety.

6. Site Investigation Update/Q&A

Matt Doolen reviewed recent results of groundwater sampling which provides a view of where the contamination is currently located. He said seven perched monitor wells are being installed at several locations in and around the WQARF site. He said that the decision was made to go ahead with all of the well installations because of the desire to finish the RI and because of future funding constraints. He said he hopes to finish all of the well installation work by June. He said at this point the RI can be completed, and a draft of this document will be distributed to members of the CAB. He outlined what the report will contain.

He said that the November/December sampling round was skipped to save money, but sampling of all of the wells was performed in January. He said the major wells decreased in TCE concentrations. He said he is looking for an overall trend, so he does not want to over-interpret a decline in concentrations from just one sampling round. He said this recent data does not change the shape of the plume, as it is currently drawn.

He said a low-level detection of TCE was noted in an inactive FWID production well which is not currently in use. He said it will be beneficial to continue to monitor this well because the contamination moves with the groundwater flow direction. He also reviewed the concentrations of chromium tested for during groundwater sampling. Slight changes were detected, but he said these are not considered significant because chromium apparently does occur naturally in the soils in the area.

Matt Doolen then reviewed the soil gas studies performed over the last two years which were done to determine where releases of TCE may have taken place. He said that the goal was to determine if the vapors were from the soil or if the vapors came from the perched aquifer. Five wells were installed, with several on the Fairfax Industrial Park, because that location is where most of the hits occurred from the soil gas testing and that is the location of a shallow perched aquifer well that has shown high levels of TCE in the past. He said two additional wells will also be installed in the area.

Regarding the soil borings, he explained that, possibly because of the drought, they had difficulty getting a good reading because the soil was moist but not saturated. Overall, the soil data will provide information about the perched aquifer in the area. He showed photos of the drill rig and soil sampling techniques. He said the soil borings are placed at five foot intervals. The results indicate that Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) are in the soil. He said this work should be completed soon.

Matt Doolen reviewed plans to install monitor wells in the area, and pointed out several locations. One of the wells will be on the grounds of the Homer Davis Elementary School. He said he and Eileen Palese went to a staff meeting for teachers to explain the drilling project.

7. CAB Membership Discussion

Eileen Palese said that Frances Feld did respond through the outreach efforts of the CAB and that she has filled out a CAB application. Eileen Palese explained that a vote on her application can take place at the next CAB meeting. She also said she called Carol Clark, aide to Kathleen Dunbar, to follow-up on her offer to encourage membership, but the Ward 3 office had no applications, thus far.

Matt Doolen said that a 4th grade teacher at Homer Davis Elementary has invited ADEQ to present a lesson as part of a hydrology series being taught at the school. He invited Netty Buras to join him when a date is set. CAB members discussed the importance of reaching children about environmental issues through school presentations and discussed ways to accomplish this goal.

8. Report on Outreach Activities

Gary Abrams said he spoke to a meeting of the Flowing Wells Neighborhood Association & Community Coalition about the Miracle Mile WQARF site and invited interested residents to join the CAB. Jan Randolph said she provided information about the site and the CAB to a neighborhood committee and that she asked to be placed on the agenda for next meeting.

9. Call to the Public

Frances Feld expressed her interest in the problem of groundwater contamination and her desire to join the CAB.

10. Other Administrative Business

No other business was discussed.

11. Next Meeting Date/Agenda Discussion

The next meeting of the Miracle Mile Community Advisory Board will be held on Thursday, July 10, 2003, at the Flowing Wells Irrigation District Office, 4901 E. Fairview, in Tucson. Call Eileen Palese, ADEQ Community Involvement Coordinator, at (520) 628-6712 for more information.

12. Adjournment

The meeting ended at 8:00 p.m.

This meeting was recorded on cassette tapes as a record of the proceedings. To listen to the tape(s), or for additional documents mentioned in these minutes, contact ADEQ's Southern Regional Office, Community Involvement Office, 520/628-6712.